

Mercenaria mercenaria* (Hard-shelled Clam)*Priority 3 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)****Class:** *Bivalvia* (Marine And Freshwater Molluscs)**Order:** *Veneroida* (Veneroids)**Family:** *Veneridae* (Venus Clams)**General comments:** none**No Species Conservation Range Maps Available for Hard-shelled Clam****SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:****Risk of Extirpation:** NA**State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:** NA**Recent Significant Declines:** NA**Regional Endemic:** NA**High Regional Conservation Priority:** NA**High Climate Change Vulnerability:***Mercenaria mercenaria* is highly vulnerable to climate change.**Understudied rare taxa:** NA**Historical:** NA**Culturally Significant:** NA**Habitats Assigned to Hard-shelled Clam:****Formation Name Intertidal****Macrogroup Name Intertidal Gravel Shore****Habitat System Name:** Lower Intertidal**Macrogroup Name Intertidal Mudflat****Habitat System Name:** Non-Vascular Mudflat ****Primary Habitat******Macrogroup Name Intertidal Water Column****Habitat System Name:** Confined Channel**Habitat System Name:** Embayment**Formation Name Subtidal****Macrogroup Name Subtidal Coarse Gravel Bottom****Habitat System Name:** Coarse Gravel**Macrogroup Name Subtidal Mud Bottom****Habitat System Name:** Submerged Aquatic Vegetation**Habitat System Name:** Unvegetated ****Primary Habitat******Macrogroup Name Subtidal Pelagic (Water Column)****Habitat System Name:** Confined Channel ****Primary Habitat**** **Notes:** larval development and dispersal**Habitat System Name:** Nearshore ****Primary Habitat**** **Notes:** larval development and dispersal**Stressors Assigned to Hard-shelled Clam:**

No Stressors Currently Assigned to Hard-shelled Clam or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Hard-shelled Clam:

No Species Specific Conservation Actions Currently Assigned to Hard-shelled Clam or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Conservation Actions Associated with the Bivalves Guild:

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Through education and collaboration, reduce the use of antifouling agents and biocides that negatively affect SGCN, and investigate alternative biofouling agents.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.